

HONORING THE VOLUNTEER FIRE
DEPARTMENT OF PROSPECT AS
THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 60TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to extend my sincere congratulations to Chief Robert Chatfield and all of the members of the Volunteer Fire Department of Prospect, past and present, as they celebrate their 60th Anniversary. This is a milestone for this wonderful organization and I am proud to have this opportunity to honor their outstanding work on behalf of the Prospect community.

The men and women who serve as firefighters face risks that few of us can comprehend. Each day, they must be ready to perform under intense pressure—literally in life or death situations as we have all witnessed in recent days. Few things are more important than feeling safe in our homes and workplaces. Our firefighters provide us with that peace of mind. Their commitment and dedication cannot be questioned and our thanks can never repay those who put their lives on the line to ensure our safety.

Since its incorporation in September of 1945, the Volunteer Fire Department of Prospect has grown from a small building with just two bays to a multi-million dollar state-of-the-art facility which houses 10 bays. The Department serves a community of over 9,000, responding to an estimated 270 fire calls and nearly 600 medical calls annually. Though it is fully dependent on volunteers, there is never a shortage of responders to a call. Though much has changed in the six decades since its inception, the one thing that has not is the reliability and consistency of those who volunteer to serve.

I have always held a deep admiration for those who serve as firefighters—each day facing new challenges and seemingly overwhelming responsibility. It takes an exceptional combination of bravery, compassion, and generosity to serve as a volunteer firefighter. In its 60 years of history, nearly 800 individuals have served in the Department. Every member of the Prospect Volunteer Department has demonstrated a unique commitment and dedication to public service throughout their careers. From the training they must receive to the responsibility of responding to emergencies to the generous fundraising efforts for the Department, they have willingly devoted themselves to their community.

Too often we take for granted the courageous work of our country's firefighters. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those Prospect residents who have volunteered their time and efforts to the Department. I am proud to recognize and commend the commitment the Volunteer Fire Department of Prospect has made to protect Prospect for 60 years. To reach such an anniversary is a testament to the generosity and civic mindedness of the resident volunteers and the Town of Prospect. My sincere congratulations to you on this very special occasion!

TRIBUTE TO STATE REPRESENTATIVE
NELSON R. STARKEY

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Alabama State Representative Nelson R. Starkey. Representative Starkey has represented the City of Florence in the Alabama State Legislature since 1978. He plans to retire from public service at the conclusion of his current legislative term in 2006.

I consider it a privilege to have worked with Representative Starkey on a wide variety of issues facing Northwest Alabama. He has done a great deal to help further the quality of life for all individuals in our community. He is most well known for his strong advocacy for increased Alabama school funding.

During his many years of service in the State House, Representative Starkey was elected by his peers to numerous legislative leadership positions. For eight years, he was the Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus and the Joint Highway Committee. He also served as Chairman of the Local Government Committee for four years and Chairman of the State Administration Committee.

Mr. Speaker, Representative Starkey is well respected throughout our local community and the entire State of Alabama. In 1993, he was chosen by the Montgomery Advertiser to receive the Meritorious Public Service Award. This honor was based on his reputation for integrity, effectiveness, vision, trustworthiness, commitment and diligence.

Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday August 23rd, the North Alabama community gathered to honor and celebrate all of Representative Starkey's achievements. I rise today, to join in their celebration and to thank Representative Starkey for his many years of dedicated service.

STATEMENT ON MARIA C. RAMOS

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Maria C. Ramos. Ms. Ramos has dedicated her life to educating others and serving her community and country. Maria is retiring after dedicating the past 30 years to serving her community. Maria's efforts to better her community and country will be sorely missed.

Born in Mexico, Ms. Ramos moved to Oakland when she was 14 years old. Since then, she has selflessly devoted much of her life to giving back to the place that has afforded her such an opportunity to succeed.

Maria has, for more than 30 years, worked tirelessly as an educator to ensure that those children would have the same opportunities to succeed as she had. She started working at St. Gertrude's School in 1974, where she served as a bilingual assistant and has since gone on to serve at Marshall Junior High and many other schools in the Stockton Unified School District.

In addition to her longstanding commitment to education, Maria is involved in countless social and political organizations. She serves

on numerous boards, including the California State Employees Association, the Democratic Central Committee, the Californians for Justice Committee, the 17th Assembly District Committee, and Comerciantes Unidas, to name just a few.

It is my distinct honor and privilege to call Maria Ramos a friend and to have the opportunity to recognize her longstanding commitment to education and service to her community.

Though her selfless devotion will be missed by all of us in the community, I'm sure her family looks forward to spending more time with her and she certainly deserves some time off.

I am delighted to recognize her service and retirement after 30 years as I wish my very best in the many years to come.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TIFFANY
A. MCBATH, RECIPIENT OF THE
PRESIDENTIAL FREEDOM SCHOL-
ARSHIP

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the superior academic performance of Tiffany A. McBath, a recipient of this year's Presidential Freedom Scholarship. Thirteen students in the 26th Congressional District are receiving this special recognition.

This award recognizes outstanding service and citizenship initiatives by the students who were nominated, and provides an opportunity to acknowledge their leadership. Administered by Learn and Serve America, the scholarship provides \$500 in Federal funds, matched with \$500 from a community organization or business obtained for the student by their high school or Boys and Girls Club. Winners must have completed at least 100 hours of community service, either through a school-based service-learning program or independently through service at a nonprofit or faith-based organization.

Tiffany is a member of the Boys and Girls Club of Cooke County Teen Center. This organization also contributed matching funds worth \$500.

Over 38,000 students to date have received this award and I extend my sincere congratulations to Tiffany A. McBath for being one of them. This student's contribution and services should serve as inspiration to those who wish to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

RECOGNIZING ALEX Q.
NEWMASER FOR ACHIEVING
THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alex Q. Newmaster, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.